

170

ACCOUNT
OF
Mr. GAWLER'S
BEING
TURNED OUT
OF THE
ARMY.

ACCOUNT

MR. GAWLER



ARMY

THE
AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
OF *K*
Mr. GAWLER's
BEING *affirmed by*
(J.B.)
TURNED 'OUT
OF THE
ARMY.
TOGETHER WITH
ALL THE PAPERS ON THE SUBJECT.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR JAMES RIDGWAY, YORK-STREET,
ST. JAMES'S-SQUARE.

1793.

THE

AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT

OF THE

RECENT



AND THE

PRINTED FOR

1793

THIS ACCOUNT OF MR. GAWLER'S DISMISSION
APPEARED IN THE MORNING CHRONICLE THE
24th OF DECEMBER LAST, AND WAS ADDRES-
SED TO THE EDITOR OF THAT PAPER.

" SIR,

" I have to request that you will be pleased to
insert in your paper the following particu-
lars of the dismissal, which I lately received from
my situation in his Majesty's service, as Senior Cap-
tain of the Second Regiment of Life Guards. I feel
it necessary thus to state these particulars, in order to
clear away all misrepresentation of my conduct.
Perhaps too, from the nature of this transaction, it
is a duty which I owe to the public to make it gene-
rally known."

B

On

On Friday the 8th December instant, Lieutenant Calland, the Adjutant of the regiment, called upon me, and read to me the following requisition. He did not think proper to leave the requisition with me, but he was pleased to furnish me with a copy of every part of it, except the signatures. I have not since had the original requisition in my possession, but I have reason to believe, that I am perfectly correct in my statement of the signatures.

“The officers of the 2d regiment of Life Guards having received certain information, that Captain Gawler has been admitted a member of one of the Republican Clubs, called the Society for Constitutional Information, and as it appears to them incompatible with his situation as holding a commission in the 2d regiment of Life Guards, a corps immediately about the King's person, the officers therefore request, that Captain Gawler will withdraw his name and support from a club, whose principles are evidently republican.”

Felix Buckley,
John Hughes, Captain,
William Mansell, Captain,
Arthur Cuthbert, Captain,
George Calland, Lieut.

R. Isaac

R. Isaac Starke, Lieut.

Thomas Rainsforth, Lieut.

Gerard Goffelin, Sub-Lieut.

A. Rous Dottin, Sub-Lieut.

John Buller, Lieut.

All, except General Buckley, were my junior officers.

Three officers of the regiment, Lieut. Impey Lieut. Capper, and Lieut. Beresford, who were present at the meeting at which this requisition was signed, refused to set their names to it, conceiving it to be an unwarrantable interference of the corps upon the subject.

On Saturday the 9th of December instant, I waited on Major General Buckley, who is the commanding officer of the regiment, and delivered to him my answer to the requisition.

After he had read the answer, he endeavoured to convince me, that prudential considerations ought to induce me to yield to the requisition; but failing in that object, he then stated to me in substance, that my conduct, if I persisted, might materially affect the interest of the three Gentlemen who had refused

to sign the requisition. This suggestion alarmed me on *their* account, and I requested to be allowed till the Monday following to consider my answer. A few moments cool consideration, after I had quitted General Buckley, convinced me that it was not to be expected, that because those three Gen lemen in their character of judges had happened to entertain a different opinion from their superior officers, that their private interest could in any manner suffer; and therefore, early on the morning of Sunday the 10th of December instant, I returned to General Buckley the answer which I had delivered to him the day before, and which is as follows:

“ Captain Gawler having received a paper addressed to him by several of the officers of his regiment, requesting him to withdraw his name and support from the Society for Constitutional Information, although he observes, that such paper is signed but by part of his corps, yet he does not hesitate to give an immediate answer to the requisition contained in it.

“ By the mere act of becoming a Member of a Society, expressly instituted for the purpose of Constitutional Information, he certainly does not consider himself as having departed in any degree from the character of his situation. As an officer in his Majesty's

ty's service, his duty is to defend the Constitution, as by law established, and the sole object to which he is pledged, by becoming a Member of the Constitutional Society, is to promote the knowledge of that same Constitution.

" If in any particular proceeding, a society passes beyond the avowed principle of its union, the persons who compose the majority that decide the measure can alone be responsible for it. It is obvious that the censure which follows such a proceeding cannot attach upon those Members, who being present, when it was determined, opposed themselves to it, nor upon those who, being absent, had not the means of opposition.

" Captain Gawler has not only never been present at any meeting whatever of the Constitutional Society, but has never in any manner given his assent or support to any resolutions adopted by that society.

" Upon the whole, Captain Gawler persuades himself that those Gentlemen who have signed the requisition will not feel themselves disposed, upon farther reflection, to press their request that he should withdraw himself from the society, since with such a request he cannot comply without acknowledging what he certainly does not acknowledge he authori-

ty of those gentlemen under the circumstances which he has stated, to interfere with him upon the subject.

“ If to belong to this Society be in itself objectionable Captain Gawler is informed that the objection applies to many other officers, and to many persons of rank and condition in the country.

“ Captain Gawler has ever professed, and now repeats, *that so long as he remains in his Majesty's service*, he shall think himself bound by his duty to shed his last drop of blood in defence of his Majesty's person and government.”

On Tuesday, the 12th of December instant, the Adjutant of the regiment delivered to me the following intimation :

“ The Officers of the 2d regiment of Life Guards have received Captain Gawler's answers to their requisition ; they had determined, before they applied to Captain Gawler, that the only substantial proof he could give to his principles being such as he has represented them, would be to withdraw his name and support from the Society in question ; but as Captain Gawler has not thought proper to comply with the wish of his corps, they have resolved to lay the whole transaction before

before the Colonel of the regiment, with their proceedings thereon."

On Saturday the 22d of December instant, I received a note and enclosure from General Buckley of which the following are copies :

" Major General Buckley presents his compliments to Mr. Gawler, and incloses the orders given to the 2d regiment of Life Guards by Lord Amherst this day."

Grosvenor-street, Dec. 14 1792.

Lord Amherst's orders, Dec. 14. 1792.
Parole, Lincoln.

" The King has been pleased to make the following promotion in the 2d regiment of Life Guards.

" Lieutenant Calland, Captain, vice Captain Gawler, who is permitted to receive the price of his commission.

" Cornet and Sub-Lieutenant Goffelin, Lieutenant."

This official notice of my dismissal was the only
information

information I received on the subject, subsequent to the intimation of the subscribing officers that they had resolved to lay the whole transaction before the Colonel of the regiment.

JOHN BELLENDEN GAWLER.

Staines, Dec. 22, 1792.

ARMY ESTIMATES, &c.

In a Committee of supply, Mr. HOBART in the Chair,

The SECRETARY at WAR, after some uninteresting observations to the public, announced the intentions of Government to make addition of ten men to every company. The establishment, therefore, of the Land Forces, now proposed for the year 1793, including invalids, &c. &c. would amount to 17,334 men. He concluded by a motion to that effect.

Mr.

Mr. *FOX* disclaimed the most distant idea of opposing the Motion now before the Committee. The same principles which had guided him in supporting the vote for an addition to the Navy, would also induce him to support the addition now proposed for the Army Establishment. The necessity for an increase to the Navy appeared to him, at this particular period, obvious. With regard to the increase of the Army, he confessed that he was at a loss to comprehend the same urgency.—Entertaining therefore some doubts, he wished, even in this stage, that the subject were fully explained. The addition to the Navy was in his opinion necessary, because pending a Negotiation, our Enemies ought to be convinced that we could commence Hostilities with promptitude and effect.—The same reason for the increase of the Army did not appear—unless, which he hoped Ministry were not mad enough to imagining, the Riots and Insurrections, so falsely propagated, required an additional number of Soldiers to enforce obedience to the Laws.—If Administration acted in this wanton and foolish manner, the People were grossly calumniated; for this Country at no time ever made a greater display of Loyalty and Attachment to the King and Constitution.—When therefore he consented to the present Resolution, it was in the belief that the Augmentation arose from the apprehensions of a Foreign War—and not from the fear of any domestic disturbances.—If the latter

idea actuated Administration, he should think it his duty, as a Member of Parliament, to resist the Motion with all his influence.—He was aware of the King's Prerogative; but he was convinced that it should not be stretched too far.

The Public had lately been annoyed with reports derogatory to the character of several Military Officers. He embraced this opportunity of declaring his sentiments on a subject highly interesting to the Country. The Officers recently dismissed his Majesty's Service, among whom was one of his relations, had not been gratified with a sufficient explanation of the harshness which they experienced. Lord SEMPLE he had not the honor of knowing personally; but another meritorious Officer, Lord EDWARD FITZGERALD, was not only near to him in blood, but dear to him in friendship. He could not pretend to assign a reason for the rigid extension of the Prerogative of the Crown; but were he permitted to advance and argue from the report in circulation, he must declare that these Gentlemen had been unfairly dealt with. The rumour stated, that they had been dismissed the service, because their names appeared in the Subscription to aid France in the maintenance of her Liberty. To him this appeared no crime. If it was a crime, he and many other Gentlemen might, on former similar occasions, plead guilty. Till now, he had never understood, that those who subscribed for the relief of Neutral Powers could be accused or punished

punished. The fact, however, appeared in another view. He would not take upon him to prescribe limits to the Royal Prerogative; but he charged the memories of Gentlemen with this incontrovertible truth, that on the former occasions alluded to. Subscriptions had been carried into effect, without any reprehension from the King or Government. When *Corfica* groaned under the oppressions of France, the People of this Country, with becoming spirit, subscribed liberally for its relief. But it was in his opinion unnecessary to make references to remote times. A remarkable instance was in the recollection of all who heard him. Some month ago, a spirited Subscription was supported for the relief of the POLES to which the names of the most respectable characters both within and without the House appeared. None of the Gentlemen who had sanctioned these Subscriptions were ever accused of acting unconstitutionally.

If Subscriptions in favour of Neutral Powers had always been passed over by Government in silence, and praised by the majority of the People as meritorious, he thought those who now fell victims to the caprice of Administration, by following a common custom, were not only exceeding unfortunate, but very unjustly selected for the indignation of the Prerogative. If aiding a Subscription were not criminal in civil life, he could not conceive why it should be deemed so in a military capacity. In this Free Country, when a man enters into the Army,
he

he cannot be considered as having relinquished the Rights of a Citizen. Such a conclusion would be exceedingly detrimental to the Army, by preventing men of character from serving their Country. It was a happy circumstance for the Nation, that many of the Officers of the Army were nearly connected with some of the first Landed Interests. If, therefore, this severe and unprecedented conduct were adopted as a practice in future times, there would be an end of the patriotism of men of eminence and capacity.

With regard to dismissal from the service, it has, comparatively speaking, rarely occurred.

If an Officer has committed any aggression against the military regulations, he is amenable to a Court Martial. If he has committed a civil outrage, he is amenable to the laws of his country. The facts consequently prove, that he has claim to Civil and Military Rights. If Ministry were culpable for the dismissal now complained of, another flagrant instance shewed their conduct in a stronger view. By reading this day the statement of Captain GAWLER, of the 2d regiment of Guards, he found that this Gentleman had been dismissed the service, because he belonged to the Society for Constitutional Information. With regard to the merits or demerits of this Society, he would not now attempt any discussion; but he would maintain, that if Captain GAWLER had been guilty by his junction with the Society,

Society, the Duke of RICHMOND and many others in the confidence of Administration were equally guilty.

Such an outrage of justice as demonstrated in the case of Captain GAWLER, was, in his opinion, very reprehensible. The mode adopted aggravated the culpability. A paper had been presented to this meritorious Gentlemen, signed by eight or ten *inferior* officers, ordering him to withdraw his name from the Society for Constitutional Information, or abide by the consequences. He very spiritedly treated this notification with becoming indifference, believing, that an inferior had no power over the actions of a superior Officer. Here he was mistaken. A Report was made to his MAJESTY, who has been pleased to signify his dismissal of Captain GAWLER. Such an extension of power, arising no doubt from the advice of Ministry, appeared pregnant with many mischievous consequences to the Army. If an Officer be guilty of any fault, let him be censured from above rather than from below. Let him be tried by a Court Martial; and, if guilty, punished. These facts are of such a serious nature, as to be very dangerous to the discipline and interest of the Army.

The SECRETARY at WAR declared, that he had no authority to enter into an explanation of such a delicate subject. He would therefore, wave all discussion; and merely content himself with maintaining that for time immemorial it had been the undoubted Prerogative,

Prerogative of the King, to dismiss any Officer in his Service without assigning any reason.

Mr. FOX expressed much dissatisfaction.—With respect to the reasons for the Dismission of Lord SEMPLE and Lord EDWARD FITZGERALD, he could only form a judgement from Public conjecture.—With respect to the reason for the dismissal of Captain GAWLER, the mystery was in some degree removed by his own statement, in a Morning Print of that day. He would not attempt to deny the Prerogative of the Crown ; but he would censure an unwarrantable extension of it through the medium of the Ministry. “ If the SECRETARY at WAR, says *Mr. Fox*, refuses to assign reasons for the dismissal of these Gentlemen, I will tell the House and the Country for what they were *not* dismissed. They were *not* dismissed for want of bravery or military capacity. In many instances their conduct has been highly meritorious. For any thing which he knew, he might answer for the gallantry of Lord SEMPLE—he might answer for that of Captain GAWLER—he might, without any hesitation, fully answer for his relation, Lord EDWARD FITZGERALD, who for many remarkable efforts had received the most flattering thanks for his courage and capacity. In two recent instances Captain GAWLER had in the fullest manner received the thanks of his Majesty, namely, for his services at the Riots in Mount Street, and the King’s Bench Prison—and on another occasion the unanimous acknowledgements of the Officers of the

Troop,

Troop. The dismissal of these Gentlemen from the Service, therefore, remained enveloped in the marvellous of the Day."

Captain GAWLER's statement of the particulars of his dismissal from his MAJESTY's service, as senior Captain of the second regiment of Life-Guards, is written with a clearness, a guarded temperance and moderation, that has but few examples. Not a single remark, not a single epithet expressive of wounded feelings, or resentment, is contained in it. As an officer and a citizen, he scorned to mix any thing that regarded himself personally, with what he justly conceived to be an important public question.

There is one additional circumstance, however, that ought to be known; and which, although we do not state it from authority, we are confident we state accurately. Captain GAWLER received 500*l.* *less*, as the price of his commission, than with the complete knowledge and approbation of the corps, he had paid for it. Captain CALLAND and Lieutenant GOSSELIN, consequently obtained their respective promotions, the former 400*l.* and the latter 100*l.* cheaper, than they would have done under other circumstances, and that too directly at Captain GAWLER's expence. The loyalty, therefore, of these two gentlemen, has the appearance of being not quite so disinterested, as for the honour of loyalty, we could wish it always to be, especially when it presumes to dictate to the opinions and conduct of other people.

January 16.

Mr. EDITOR,

On my return from Staffordshire this day, I read in your paper of Friday last, a paragraph, purporting “that a morning Paper having been authorized by me to state that I had received 500l. less than I gave for my commission, and that I had advanced the above sum when I had purchased with the complete knowledge and approbation of my corps.” You had authority to contradict both these assertions.

The assertions alluded to appeared, in a paragraph in a Morning Paper on the 26th of December last; and, together with the above assertions, the paragraph contained some observations on the conduct of Captain Calland and Lieutenant Goslelin, who were promoted, upon my dismissal, with respect to the price they had paid to me for my commission; but it was expressly stated, that it was not inserted by authority. In truth, I was altogether ignorant of that paragraph, until it appeared publicly in print; but, in a conversation which I had with the Editor a few days before, respecting the insertion of the facts of my dismissal, which appeared in that paper on the 24th of December last, I had undoubtedly, as I had

had generally done whenever my dismission became the subject of conversation, stated the two facts, which you have denied by authority; and for these facts I am responsible; The Editor of the same Paper, assures me, that some days before the appearance of your paper of Friday last, he informed Lieutenant Gosselin, who applied to him on the subject, of the paragraph complained of, that I had no knowledge of it until it was printed. If I had thought fitting to be author of any reflections in a public newspaper on the conduct of Captain Calland, and Lieutenant Gosselin, I should certainly not have inserted them in an anonymous paragraph.

In all the regiments in his Majesty's service, there is a certain price for Commissions settled at the War Office, which is called the regulated price, and was meant to determine the actual value; but in point of fact, the actual price paid for commissions considerably exceeds this regulated price. Soon after, I received the notice, that I was dismissed from the regiment with the liberty to receive the price of my commission, I found that Captain Calland and Lieutenant Gosselin, who were promoted in consequence of my dismission, had resolved to pay me only the regulated price, which was all that I could legally enforce the payment of, and not the price which I had paid on my purchase; and which, if I had quitted the regiment voluntarily, I should certainly have been able to obtain. I therefore computed that I should

D

sustain

sustain a loss of 496l. 13s. 4d. but, in making this computation, I understood the regulated price to be paid by the Captain promoted to be 12,00l. whereas, such regulated price is 1200 guineas; and I understood the regulated price is to be paid by the Lieutenant promoted, to be 500l. whereas such regulated price is 500 guineas; and Captain Calland and Lieutenant Gosselin had actually, as I afterwards found, deposited the above two sums of 12,00 guineas and 500 guineas, with the agent of the regiment on my account: upon the whole, therefore, the loss which I sustained, instead of 496l. 13s. 4d. amounts to 411l. 13s. 4d. and I am glad to have this opportunity of correcting my former error.

With respect to the other assertion, that I had advanced the price which I had paid for my commission with the complete knowledge and approbation of the corps, I should have been much at a loss to understand on what ground the denial of it could have proceeded, if I had not learn from the Editor of the above Paper, that Lieutenant Gosselin had lately informed him that such assertion was not founded, because he (Lieutenant Gosselin) was not in the corps at the time of my purchase, and therefore it could not possibly be made with his knowledge and approbation. I was not aware that the expression in question was capable of the construction which Lieutenant Gosselin appears to give it. When I said of my purchase that it had passed with the knowledge and approbation

tion of my corps, I certainly meant to express, that it passed with the knowledge of the Gentlemen, who, at the time of the purchase, composed the corps and did it not occur to me, that the phrase would bear any other sense. Undoubtedly, the price that I paid for my commission, was a matter of general notoriety in the regiment at the time of my purchase. How soon after Lieutenant Gosselin entered the regiment, it became known to him, I cannot take upon me to say: I know only, that the day after I received notice of the promotion of Captain Calland and Lieutenant Gosselin, I wrote to each of those Gentlemen on the subject of the difference between the regulated price and the actual price of commissions in the regiments, stating the sums I had paid, in the full confidence that those sums would be returned to me. I was the more strongly induced to this confidence, from the circumstance of Captain Calland and Lieutenant Gosselin having both joined in the requisition which occasioned my dismissal: it appearing to me, that those Gentlemen would not willingly derive to themselves any advantages from the consequences of this requisition, least it might expose them to the imputation of having been actuated by improper motives, in the part which they had taken in it. But both Captain Calland and Lieutenant Gosselin did, however, refuse to pay me more than the regulated price, without assigning any reasons for their conduct.

If Captain Calland and Lieutenant Gosselin who avow themselves to be the authors of the paragraph in your paper, which I have alluded to instead of the general denial contained in that paragraph, had taken the trouble to explain the facts of this transaction, and to give to the public the principle upon which they refused to pay me the full price, they would certainly have best served the ends of truth and justice.

JOHN BELLENDEN GAWLER.

For the MONING HERALD.

MR. EDITOR.

I shall answer to Mr. GAWLER's letter, which appeared in your paper of the 18th, in as few words as possible.

With respect to Mr. GAWLER's first assertion, I perceive he has discovered that the advance he paid was nearly 100l. less than he had stated. Gentlemen who are in the habit of favouring the public with statements, ought to learn to be accurate; such accuracy will best serve the purposes of *Truth and Justice*.

Mr.

Mr. GAWLER's second assertion, I still continue to contradict; several officers who were in the regiment at the time of Mr. GAWLER's promotion, having declared upon their honour that they never were consulted on the subject of the advance; and that they were totally ignorant of the amount paid by Mr. GAWLER for his troop. This being the fact I am astonished that Mr. GAWLER can find himself so much at a loss to account for the contradiction, and must confess, I am surpris'd how he could assert that the advance was given with the complete knowledge and approbation of the corps.

I might have mentioned to the Editor of a Morning Paper, that I was not in the regiment at the time of Mr. GAWLER's promotion; but it is the extreme of folly to suppose I should ground my contradiction of his assertions upon that circumstance. The former part of this letter will fully evince I had no such intention.

There is one part of Mr. GAWLER's letter I cannot pass unnoticed, as it is equally inaccurate with his former assertions: he declares, that Captain CALLAND and myself had resolv'd not to give him more than the regulated price; I beg leave to inform Mr. GAWLER; (of what perhaps he is ignorant) that I received an order from the Commanding Officer, by command of his Majesty, to lodge the regulation, which was the first intimation I received of my intended promotion.

I shall

I shall decline in future any public discussion on the subject, pledging myself to the public for the facts contain in this letter.

GERARD GOSSELIN,

Lieutenant of the 2d Regiment of Life Guards.



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